

Editorial

Imphal, Monday, February 1, 2016

Positive attitude

The Strife torn State of Manipur, inspite of the unenviable tag of a disturbed area, has much more potential and unexplored potential than that of being one with the most prolific and industrious system for churning out militant groups, thought the tag is unlikely to come off anytime soon in the foreseeable future. On a brighter note, we have some of the most diverse and varied vegetables, fruits, pulses, cereals and grains. Condiments that has not yet been regular ingredients in Mainland India has been in use in the North East for centuries. The introduction of Korean channel "Arirang" revealed an astonishing similarity, both in the ingredients as well as in the methods of preparations, in the diets of the two regions. Our elders, much to our chagrin and resentment, used to refer to the imported hybrid vegetables and fruits as those from the "Block", and preferred the local varieties of everything. That preference has now started to make sense, more than ever, with the perceptible difference in the aroma and taste between the imported hybrids and the local varieties. Anyone who had a friend or near one from outside as a guest in Manipur will surely have received compliments on the distinct aroma and taste of the dishes of the state. All these has been a clear indication of the unique qualities of the plants and vegetables grown on the soil of the State whose more than 70% of it's population is still engaged in agriculture and other allied activities. So what does all these discussions point to? And how do we utilize these to the fullest? There is no doubt that the distinct aroma, varieties and extent of availability of these plants, herbs and vegetables has been confined to the local market. While the reasons are many and varied, yet it is pretty clear that there is an apparent lack of enthusiasm and earnestness on the part of the Government to explore and exploit markets outside the State and beyond. The latest confirmation of the interest shown by people outside the State for products grown in the State is the report about a certain person from the United States inquiring about the possibility of exporting the black rice (Chak Hao) through a processing factory in India, and this is just one instance. This positive development should be an eye opener of the potential the State holds for earning through exporting of it's varied and unique agricultural products after due finishing processes. It would be a blunder and a shame for everyone if the State is reduced to a supplier of raw products only. The need of the hour is for developing a tertiary sector that provides value addition to the products and thus provides double benefit to those involved. The products are there. The steps to mass produce them, to process them and to market them needs a systematic approach that coordinates and complements each of the components in the chain of process. It is time to make a radical change in the approach towards agriculture from that of a subsistence one to that of a highly rewarding, financially lucrative and emotionally fulfilling occupation. That change needs to be initiated by those who are assigned just to do that, else our people will just be the farmers who produce the things others outside the State will buy who will then convert these raw materials into finished products who will then sell it to the State at an exorbitant price. Heard the story before? Got the drift?

Afghan CEO calls on Modi

AP
New Delhi, Feb 1: Afghan Chief Executive Officer and Head of the Council of Ministers Abdullah Abdullah called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Monday. "Sustained engagement with Afghanistan. Chief Executive @DrAAbdullah meets PM @narendramodi in Delhi," external affairs ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup. Abdullah Abdullah, who arrived here on Sunday on a five-day visit to India, is also scheduled to meet External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. He will leave for Jaipur on Tuesday where he will attend a conference on counter-terrorism. Abdullah Abdullah's visit to India comes in the wake of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Kabul in December when the new Afghan parliament building, constructed with India's aid, was inaugurated.

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National & International News

Aung San Suu Kyi leads party into historic Burma parliament

Despite the landslide, Burma's constitution reserves 25 % of seats to the military

By Esther Htusan, The Associated Press
Yangon, Feb 1: Burma's parliament dominated by pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party on Monday began a new and historic session that will install the country's first democratically elected government in more than 50 years. The National League for Democracy won a landslide in the Nov. 8 elections, winning 80 per cent of the seats in the two houses of parliament to defeat the military-



Forces rush to violence-hit Andhra town

VIANS
Vishakapatnam, Feb 1: Additional police and paramilitary forces were rushed to coastal Andhra Pradesh on Monday, a day after large-scale violence rocked Tuni town in East Godavari district during a protest by Kapus demanding reservation. Police imposed prohibitory orders banning assembly of four or more persons across East Godavari district and beefed up security to prevent any untoward incident. Senior police officials including additional director general of police (law and order) R P Thakur have reached Tuni to review the situation. Police began investigations into Sunday's violence in which a train, two police stations and 25 vehicles were torched. Fifteen policemen and four railway employees were injured in the violence.

The investigating officials were screening video footage to identify miscreants who torched train and police stations. The arrests are likely to be made later on Monday. Personnel of Andhra Pradesh special police, central reserve police force (CRPF), rapid action force and Indo-Tibetan border police (ITBP) have been deployed in Tuni and other places in the district. Kumar Viswajeet, inspector general of police, north coastal Andhra, told reporters in Tuni that forces were deployed in all places and that they were ready to deal with any situation. More than 3,500 security personnel were deployed in Tuni and other sensitive places in the district. Security has also been tightened in Vijayawada with deployment of special forces to prevent any violence. Rail and road traffic between Vishakapatnam and Vijayawada restored late Sunday night after M Padmanabham, a key Kapu leader, announced withdrawal of agitation. He, however, threatened to go on 'fast-unto-death' if the government failed to respond by Monday evening on the demand for including Kapus in the list of backward castes. Several trains were cancelled or diverted since Sunday afternoon when protestors torched Ratnachal Express near Tuni station. All 24 bogies were gutted in the incident. Railway officials estimate the loss to be Rs.30 crore.

Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the situation with director general of police JV Ramudu and other top officials. Terming the violence as 'pre-planned', Naidu asked officials to deal firmly with those involved.

backed Union Solidarity and Development Party. Legislators from the two parties and from smaller ethnic minority parties as well as nominated military representatives filed into the cavernous parliament for the session in which the members took a joint oath of office. The session marks a historic turnaround for the NLD, which for years was suppressed by the military, which had ruled the country directly or indirectly after seizing power in 1962. NLD leaders including Suu Kyi and other critics were jailed, and overt political activity was crushed. The Southeast Asian nation, also known as Myanmar, started moving away from dictatorship toward democracy in 2011, when the military rulers agreed to hand over power to a nominally civilian government headed by President Thein Sein, a general turned reformist. He will stand down in late March or early April when an NLD president takes over.

Suu Kyi is constitutionally barred from taking the presidency, and has vowed to rule from behind the scenes through a proxy. She has not announced who her party will nominate for president. "We don't know exactly when the presidential election will happen. We cannot tell you anything about who will be nominated as the presidential candidates as well," said Zayar Thaw, an NLD legislator. Despite its landslide victory, the NLD in practice will have to share power with the military, for which the constitution reserves 25 per cent of the seats in parliament. Suu Kyi has met with senior military leaders to try to ensure a smooth change of government, and they have vowed not to interfere. Thein Sein's military-backed USDP won a 2010 election in which the NLD refused to participate, protesting that it was held under unfair conditions. After several changes in the election law, the NLD contested several dozen by-elections in 2012, winning virtually all of them.

Ethnic rebellions a threat

The military called an election in 1990, which Suu Kyi's party won handsomely, only to see the results annulled by the military and many of its leading members harassed and jailed. Suu Kyi was put under house arrest prior to the 1990 election and spent 15 of the next 22 years mostly confined to her lakeside villa in Yangon. She was under house arrest when she won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. Establishing democracy is only one hurdle the country faces. The new government will also have to contend with various ethnic rebellions in several parts of the country. The military-backed government signed a peace pact with more than dozen smaller ethnic armies before the elections but major groups have stayed away, and fighting continues in many states. Most are fighting for autonomy and rights over their resource-rich land. "I hope this will be a good opportunity for us to speak out for the ethnic people and demand indigenous rights," said Lama Naw Aung, a lower house member from the Kachin State Democracy Party, representing the Kachin minority who are engaged in ongoing battles with the army in the east of the country. "I think there will be a change because Aung San Suu Kyi might want to finish the work the ethnics that her father didn't get a chance to do," he said, referring to Myanmar's independence hero Aung San who united various national groups. He and six of his colleagues were assassinated in July 1947, six months before Myanmar's independence.

Contd. from previous issue

History of Manipur as reflected in the socio-cultural ties of hills & plain

(5) Affinity in Vocabulary: Being under the Tibeto-Burman Family group speaking dialects of the same language, the Meiteis, Nagas and Kukis ought to have certain amount of linguistic affinity which should be manifested in their vocabularies. In this regard it will be relevant to note that - (i) Kuki language is called in Manipur Thadou-Pao. This language does not have 'L' for 'R'. Thus for a word that requires 'R' in its spelling it is substituted by either the letter 'L' or 'G' as the case may be; (ii) The Nagas do not have a common language unlike the Meiteis and the Kukis. Yet, the most outstanding advancement in developing a common language is the Tangkhul Nagas who adopted the Ukhrul dialect as their common language. So when language affinity is made on comparative study Tangkhul language will be used. (iii) J.C. Higgins, the then Political Agent, Manipur said, "Manipuri and Thadou (Kuki) contain certain roots in common, but are quite distinct languages and a knowledge of one does not enable a person to make himself understood by persons speaking the other. Assam Government, therefore, grants a separate reward to Officers passing in both". (iv) According to Rev. Renghach Chothe, Former President of Ethno Heritage Council (HERICOUN), there are no less than 30(Thirty) percent vocabularies of the Chothe dialect with the Manipuri language which are also similar to the Thadou language. Few examples of the following words are:

No	Manipuri	Chothe	English
1.	Sangbai	Shangpaai	Paddy basket
2.	Chairung	Chairanung	Cheek
3.	Tathak-Yakha	Yathak-Yakha	Upper and lower jaws
4.	Pomphi	Pawnphi (Pawn = cloth; phi = joining)	Cloth (thick blanket)
5.	Nahong	Nao-pawn	Baby cloth to carry on shoulders

Under the circumstances, we may examine as to how far as those people related or otherwise in regard to language also. Some representative vocabularies are shown herein below for the said purpose

a). Anatomique vocabularies :

No.	English	Meitei	Thadou (Kuki)	Tangkhul (Naga)
1.	Head	Kok (Lu)	Lu	Kui
2.	Neck	Ngak	Ngong	Khanao
3.	Shoulder	Leng (Lengban)	Leng (Lengkou)	
4.	Hair	Sam	Sam	Sam
5.	Eye	Mit	Mit	Mik
6.	Saliva	Tin	Chil	
7.	Nose	Na-ton	Nak-kui	Kha-na
8.	Tongue	Lei	Lei	Lei
9.	Tooth	Ya	Ha	Ha
10.	Hand	Khut	Khut	Khut
11.	Knee	Khuk-u	Khup-bu	
12.	Leg	Khong	Keng (Phei)	Phei
13.	Nail	Khu-jil	Khut-tin	
14.	Chin	Chin	Kha-dang	Kha-lhang (Kha-tang)
15.	Face	Mai	Mai	Mai
16.	Thigh	Phei-gan	Phei-gan	Phei-pi Kaphei

(a) Numerals :

1.	One	A-ma	Khat	A-kha
2.	Two	A-ni	Ni	Kha-ni
3.	Three	A-hum	Thum	Ka-thum
4.	Four	Ma-ti	Ma-ti	Ma-ti
5.	Five	Ma-nga	Nga	Pha-nga
6.	Six	Ta-ruk	Gup (K) or Ruk	Tha-ruk
7.	Seven	Ta-ret	Sagi	Si-ni
8.	Eight	Ni-pan	Get	Chi-sat
9.	Nine	Ma-pan	Koh(k)	Chi-ko
10.	Ten	Ta-ra	Som	Tha-ra.

(b) Miscellaneous :

1.	Wood	Shing	Thing	Thing
2.	Song	I-sei	La	La
3.	Dead	A-si-ba	A-Thi	Ka-Thi
4.	Alive	A-hing-ba	A-Hing	Ka-Hing
5.	Go	Chat-pa	A-Che	Ka-Chat
6.	Cry	Kap-pa	A-Kap	Ka-Chap
7.	Name	Ming	Min	Ming
8.	Laugh	Nok-pa	A-Nui	Nga-Nu
9.	Shout	Lao-ba	A-Ao	Kha-Vao
10.	Call	Kou-ba	A-Kou	Ka-Ho.

These are few of the original vocabularies that stand the winds of change that were experienced in the languages of Meitei, Kuki and Naga. While that of the Kukis and the Nagas remain more or less unchanged, a lot of sanskritization had taken place in the case of Meitei language that had distanced their homogeneity. It is to be seen as to how long the relic remnants of linguistic homogeneity would survive. **(To be contd.)**